



# Streamline the Biosolids Permit Process

Lean Project Progress Report: August 28, 2012

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<b>Background</b>	Portions of the biosolids permitting process is complicated and time-consuming. The process involves multiple steps. Some of the process steps are required by federal rules; others are required by state rules. The applicant is responsible for completing some steps; Ecology staff are responsible for others. It frequently takes a long time between the time certain applications are received and the issuance of a final decision (either approval or denial of coverage under the Biosolids General Permit). In addition, there is some degree of inconsistency across the state, particularly with regards to permitting priorities, expectations for submitted plans, and final permit conditions.		
<b>Project Objective(s)</b>	Decrease the time required to approve or deny an application under the Biosolids General Permit and increase consistency across the state in terms of priorities, expectations, and permit conditions.		
<b>Value Stream Mapping Outcome</b>	<b>Current Situation (Old Way)</b>	<b>Future (New Way)</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
	Ecology issues a statewide general permit approximately five years.	Ecology issues a statewide general permit approximately five years.	Same
	Facilities apply for coverage under the general permit. Facilities update their existing applications or submit a new application if there's not already one on file.	Facilities apply for coverage under the general permit. Facilities update their existing applications or submit a new application if there's not already one on file.	Same
	The applicant and the regional biosolids coordinator go back and forth developing an adequate permit. This process may take upwards of 24+ months. What constitutes an "adequate" permit is up to the regional coordinator.	Applicant will closely follow permit template and sampling and analysis guidelines provided by regional coordinator.	Drastically reduce iterative process as well as ensure statewide consistency of permit conditions.
	Final letter of coverage is issued by regional office.	Final letter of coverage is issued by regional office.	Same
<b>Activities to Implement Future State</b>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Job-alike-group (JAG) Charter</li> <li>• Developed work prioritization paradigm</li> <li>• Develop Biosolides JAG SharePoint Site</li> <li>• Site Specific Land Application Permit Template (new!)</li> <li>• Seasonal Ground Water Monitoring Guidance (new!)</li> <li>• Land Owner Consent template (new!)</li> <li>• Public Notice and Land Application Sign templates and performance standards (new!)</li> </ul> <p><b>Under Development</b></p> <p>Due to a loss of key staff, no work is currently being done on this project. Further, due to the significant learning curve anticipated for the new staff, it's unclear when this activity will resume.</p>		

<b>Results to Date</b>	<p>The program just received very positive feedback from one of the first users of the initial products from this effort (Site Specific Land Application Permit Template). The subjective opinion of the biosolids coordinator is that permitting process went much faster as a result of having the template.</p> <p><b>From:</b> Coats, Erik [<a href="mailto:ecoats@uidaho.edu">mailto:ecoats@uidaho.edu</a>]  <b>Sent:</b> Wednesday, August 15, 2012 12:39 PM  <b>To:</b> Bickner, Betty Ann (ECY)  <b>Subject:</b> Colfax SSLAP</p> <p>Hi Betty. Attached please find a draft SSLAP (in Microsoft Word format) plus the attachments referenced in the SSLAP (in PDF format). Let me know if you have any comments or the SSLAP needs any additions.</p> <p>Also, I want to thank you for sending me the SSLAP template.....that was hugely helpful in preparing this SSLAP. I appreciate the WA DOE providing this template.</p> <p>Erik R. Coats, P.E., Ph.D.  Associate Professor - Civil Engineering  Affiliate Professor - Microbiology, Molecular Biology, and Biochemistry  The University of Idaho</p>		
<b>Discussion about Results</b>	<p>We will be working closely with new applicants to identify any problem areas that still exist. As we receive feedback from the users, we will continue to modify the template.</p>		
<b>Future Action Plan (Milestones)</b>	<b>What?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>When?</b>
	Identify and review existing national and state literature for model sampling and analysis guidance documents.	Biosolids Job-Alike-Group (BS JAG) team members	Yet to be determined
	Work with applicants to get their feedback on documents already created as part of this process.	BS JAG team members	Ongoing